

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in reply to the Office Action dated November 3, 2008. A three (3) month Petition for Extension is filed concurrently herewith. Therefore, the time period for reply extends up to and includes May 3, 2009. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for careful review and consideration of the present application.

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment can be found at least at page 13, paragraph [0025] of the specification as filed. New claims 20 – 31 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 – 31 are pending.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Itami (10-280087) or Akisue (JP 11-315328) or Yokoi (WO 01/81640 used with English equivalent U.S. 6,589,369) or Yoshinaga (WO 01/94655 used with English equivalent 6,632,296). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 recites a cold rolled steel composition comprising: C : between 1300ppm and 2600ppm, Mn : between 10000ppm and 22000ppm, Al : between 8000ppm and 15000ppm, Si : between 2000ppm and 6000ppm, P : between 400 and 1000ppm, S : maximum 120ppm, N : maximum 200ppm, Ti : maximum 1000ppm, Nb : maximum 1000ppm, V : maximum 1000ppm, and B : maximum 10ppm, the remainder being iron and incidental impurities; wherein the cold rolled steel composition comprises a microstructure comprising 30-75% ferrite, 10-40% bainite, 0-20% retained austenite and 0-10% martensite.

Applicants submit that claim 1 overcomes the rejections of the previously cited art (Itami, Akisue, Yokoi or Yoshinaga). Claim 1 includes a cold rolled steel composition comprising concentration ranges of C, Mn, Al, Si, P, S, N, Ti, Nb, V and B combined with a microstructure comprising ranges of concentrations of microstructures of ferrite, bainite, retained austenite and martensite. The robustness of the cold rolled steel product, for example for use in automotive

applications, is assured by applying the composition of the invention of claim 1 (*see* for example, paragraphs [0051] – [0053] of the specification as filed). Therefore, Itami, Akisue, Yokoi or Yoshinaga references, alone or in combination, neither teach nor suggest a composition which fully corresponds to the presently claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to make additional arguments as may be necessary.

New claims 20 – 31 have been added. Claim 20 depends from claim 1. Independent claim 21 recites an uncoated, electro-galvanised or hot dip galvanised TRIP steel product, produced in a process comprising a cold rolling step, the steel product being produced from a steel composition comprising: C : between 1300ppm and 2600ppm, Mn : between 10000ppm and 22000ppm, Al : between 8000ppm and 15000ppm, Si : between 2000ppm and 6000ppm, P : between 400 and 1000ppm, S : maximum 120ppm, N : maximum 200ppm, Ti : maximum 1000ppm, Nb : maximum 1000ppm, V : maximum 1000ppm, and B : maximum 10ppm, the remainder being iron and incidental impurities; wherein the steel product has a microstructure comprising 30-75% ferrite, 10-40% bainite, 0-20% retained austenite and 0-10% martensite. Claims 22 – 31 depend from claim 21.

Applicants submit that new claims 20 – 31 are allowable based on the discussion of claim 1 above.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/539,758
Amendment dated April 30, 2009
Reply to Final Office Action of November 3, 2008

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Merchant & Gould P.C.,
Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

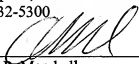
Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



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